I. Self-reappraisal

The Center was founded in September, 1976. We have published a brochure entitled "Ten Years of Activities, 1976-1986," which is still available upon request. This brochure summarizes well our objectives, our activities, and our achievements in that first decade.

We think it is fair to say that, as a result of that decade of work, our Center has achieved an international reputation as a locus of work that is interesting, important, focused, and perhaps even unique. We have every reason to feel proud of our accomplishments. Nonetheless, the Board of the Center devoted some time in the spring and summer of 1988 to a critical self-evaluation. We wondered about two things: whether or not we had in some sense "exhausted" the intellectual agenda we had set ourselves in 1976-77; whether, despite our renown, we were having the kind of impact on world social science that we had hoped. We decided therefore that, instead of conducting business as usual, we would use the year 1988-89 for a collective and intensive appraisal of the intellectual issues facing contemporary world social science and our own activities in the light of this appraisal.

We created a seminar composed of some 30 persons (all the members of the Board, the research staff, and all those persons who had been active recently in Research Working Groups of the Center). We began by reviewing the intellectual agenda developed in 1976-77 (and published in Review, I, 2, Fall 1977 as "Patterns of Development of the Modern World-System"). As a consequence of our discussions during the fall of 1988, we developed a framework (both intellectual and organizational) for our future work.

The basic idea is to organize our future work around three distinct "research programs" to which we have given the following tentative names:

A. Historical Processes of the Modern World-System: Cyclical Rhythms and Secular Trends

B. Contemporary Transformations of the World-System: Policy Implications

C. The World of Knowledge and the World-System

While we have in the past done considerable work that falls under category A, we have done quite little that falls under B and C. This
decision therefore embarks us on new directions, and represents a significant expansion of our research horizons.

As a result of these discussions, we have decided to continue some but not all of our existing RWG's, some in modified form, and to start some new RWG's.

II. Research Working Groups (continuing)

a. World Labor

The World Labor Group has completed the first stage of its extensive compilation of world-level data on labor unrest over 100 years with the aid of a grant from the World Society Foundation, Zurich. The data has been entered into computer files and subjected to various reliability studies. The data has been gleaned from Indices of the New York Times and London Times, with reliability assessments based on official strike data and secondary literature.

The group is now proceeding to stage two, which involves recording information for years for which indices do not exist, and filling out data where the indices were insufficient or ambiguous, as well as creating various indices of its own. It hopes thereby to be able to test over the coming two years a series of hypotheses concerning the relationship of labor unrest to location (geographical, sectorial) in the world-economy and to world time (effects of A/B phases, world wars, etc.).

b. Southern Africa and the World-Economy

The work on the joint research with the Centro de Estudos Africanos (Univ. Eduardo Mondlane) on "Southern Africa and the World-Economy, 1975-2000," which had been interrupted because of the death of Aquino de Bragança, has been fully resumed. Research teams are at work at both institutions. The Ford Foundation has renewed its support to this project with grants to both institutions. It has awarded the Center $55,000 to cover its share of the project.

The two Centers are now on a schedule of two research meetings per year. One was held in Binghamton on Oct. 26-27, 1988. A second was held in Maputo on May 30-June 1, 1989. The third will take place in Binghamton on Oct. 30-31, 1989. We expect a fourth in Maputo in the late spring of 1990. The project is both holistic and prospective, looking at the region of southern Africa as an integral part of the world-economy and the interstate system, and analyzing the vectors of continuity and change in the light of the current political transformations. The project will present an interim report at the next meeting of the African Studies Association in Atlanta from Nov. 2-5, 1989. Leaders of the project from both Binghamton and Maputo will be present.

c. Commodity Chains

This group, formerly under the label of "Cyclical Rhythms and Secular Trends," is continuing its research on the two commodity chains of cereal flour and shipbuilding in the period 1590-1790.
d. Households

The manuscript of this group is virtually complete. The introductory chapter, "Households as an Institution of the World-Economy" by Immanuel Wallerstein and Joan Smith, will appear in Jetse Sprey, ed., Theorizing About the Family.

e. Institutionalization of Social Science

This is a modification of the previous Social Sciences/Social Movements RWG. The scope of the empirical research has been more narrowly defined for the moment. We have decided to look into the process by which the categorization of knowledge into multiple branches was reflected in and furthered by library classification systems in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We will start with the Dewey Decimal and LC systems, both currently administered by the Library of Congress. We have received a small pilot grant from the Spencer Foundation.

III. Research Working Groups (new)

As a result of our self-reappraisal discussions, we have decided to launch two new linked RWG's under the overall heading, "Hegemony and Rivalry in the World-System: Trends and Prospective Consequences of Geopolitical Realignments, 1500-2025." We have outlined the following intellectual problem:

This world-system has operated as what we call a "world-economy," that is, without formal political unification (in contrast to "world-empires"). It is not that this was never at issue. At various points in its history, various powers had sought, by military and political means, to transform the "world-economy" into a "world-empire" (for example, Charles V, Napoleon, Hitler). For reasons that we think are theoretically (as well as historically) explicable, all such attempts failed.

What has "succeeded" in its place was a different kind of political project, the achievement at various times by one of the states of "hegemony" within the world-system. By hegemony we mean broadly the ability to obtain one's political will and maintain serious economic advantage without significant possibility of other apparently "strong" states to counter this ability. Clearly, in its "high" form, the period of such ability is brief. But seen over time on a continuum of relative strength, relative hegemony can be argued to last longer. The opposite of a situation of hegemony is a situation of rivalry when there exist a series of "great powers," no one of which is significantly able to impose its will or maintain its economic advantage over the others.

As we see it, there have been in the history of the modern world-system three hegemonic powers or periods heretofore: the United Provinces in the 17th century, the United Kingdom in the 19th, the United States in the 20th. Part one of our project would be to compare the situation of the three eras at two specific points of each: (a) the moment of "high" hegemony; (b) the "beginnings of the decline." The specific object would be first to see how
each "institutionalized" its hegemony during the moment of "high" hegemony, the purpose of such institutionalization of course being to make the hegemony endure. Then we would look at how the hegemonic power used these institutions in the second period to "slow down" its decline. Obviously, each of the three eras is different. We would nonetheless look to see whether there were critical structural similarities of the three attempts.

The dates to attach to these periods would themselves be an object of research. However, we would start with the following:

U.P.: "high" hegemony - (1590) - 1620 - 1651(1672)
   "beginning of decline" - 1651 - 1713

U.K.: "high" hegemony - 1815 - 1873
   "beginning of decline" - 1873 - 1897(1914)

   "beginning of decline" - 1967 - 1990 (not as end of this period, but as current moment)

What we would try to analyze is the "complex" of institutions each power put in place during the period of "high" hegemony-economic (productive, commercial, financial), politico-military (alliance networks, interstate structures, interference systems, technical assistance systems), socio-cultural (world linguistic policies, "social science" theorization, ideological networks, political theory as applied at home and abroad). We would then want to look at who undermined these institutions and how, and with what degree of success, and how the institutions themselves could be used to undermine the opposing forces and thus "contain" the decline.

In a basic sense, the object of this part of the research would be to establish the "cyclical rhythms" of the modern world-system, if one takes as a focus of attention the establishment and maintenance of hegemony. By uncovering and explicating commonalities in the patterns of the three hegemonic eras (or these parts of each we have specified for study), we should have a clearer explanation of the kinds of changes likely to occur in the next 20-30 years, as we complete the time we have called "the beginnings of the decline" in the case of the third and current hegemonic power, the United States.

We do not however regard this as sufficient, or even as legitimate per se. To stop there would subject us to the correct criticism that the comparison was too "mechanical" and much too "abstract" to enable us to use it usefully in any projection of real current prospects. Furthermore, it would ignore entirely that the modern world-system, like all historical systems, has "secular trends" as well as "cyclical rhythms," and that these secular trends lead at some moment to "bifurcations" (pace Prigogine) in the system, which ceases to contain its fluctuations within linear and determined vectors. The point therefore of this first part, for us, is only to establish the parameters of the "normal" in order better to observe what is concretely "exceptional" in the present conjuncture. We seek to ascertain whether we are in, or are soon going to be in, such a "bifurcation" and, to the degree that we are, what are the possible historical alternatives that present themselves to us today.
Thus the second part of the research is a holistic analysis of the world-system, 1967-2025 (the latter merely a symbolic date, far enough into the future to move past the immediate, not too far as to be absurd).

We would start this part of the research with a double scenario, one relating to the realignments in interstate alliances and economic processes, the second relating to the post-1968 realignments in antisystemic movements (integrating into this analysis the processes going on within the Soviet bloc which we think can best be understood as part of this realignment).

For the first scenario, we shall look into various possible structures of world order. One obviously is an expanded Trilateralism. A second, less likely, is a U.S.-Soviet condominium. The third, less frequently explored, involves the establishment in the next 20 years of a Japanese-U.S. alliance or condominium which, while continuing to assume that the U.S. will play a somewhat-reduced "hegemonic" role (primarily in terms of military security and probably as a financial center), will assume Japan's lead as a productive-commercial power, and a greatly increased political role for Japan in world diplomacy. This would presume some new inter-enterprise structures, which might be built around the exploitation of the new "leading centers" (microprocessors, biogenetics, etc.) on the basis of current Japanese organizational skills and current U.S. R & D skills. We would investigate how far such links are already in the process of establishment, and where and how they could be developed. We would also wish to look closely at how, on the one hand, China, and on the other hand, the so-called Asian NIC's, could be associated with (integrated within?) such a structure.

We would assume that, were such a structure to be elaborated, western Europe would move to create a counter-structure, based on an enlargement of the EEC, as it becomes established in its 1992 version. One obvious possibility would be to expand its economic embrace not only to the EFTA countries, but to east-central Europe and the U.S.S.R. as well. This is of course both Pope John Paul II's and Mikhail Gorbachev's "house of Europe."

This has immense complications, first of all at the purely economic level, secondly in terms of its military implications, thirdly in terms of what it would do to still-alive ideological considerations. Still, faced with a U.S.-Japanese "arrangement," it might seem the best option available. We would like to explore its concrete institutional difficulties.

We would then try to see to what degree such a "bipolar" realignment would be likely to affect flows between the two poles, and the ways in which each pole would (and could) seek to integrate various parts of the South (Latin America, Black Africa, Arab world/Middle east, Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, Pacific islands) into the zones (and at what price to them).

Pursuing this scenario, we would seek to project the kind of renewed economic expansion of the world-economy this would make possible, the probable geographic distribution of economic processes, the ecological implications of renewed growth, the relationship of this growth to space-centered military technology, and the necessity of (likelihood of) significant new migrations of populations as a result.
Simultaneously, we will pursue the second scenario. Since 1968 (especially), there has emerged in each of the three political zones of the world (West, East, and South) a new set of antisystemic movements which have contested the dominance of the principal "old left" structures (Social-Democrats in the West, Communists in the East, national liberation movements in the South). We are currently bemused by its acting out in the East. This keeps us from noticing that parallel struggles are going on in West and South, causing almost as much disarray and intellectual confusion.

In the scenario we envisage, this present structuring of organizational activity into six main varieties of antisystemic movements (Social-Democrats and "new social movements" in the West, Communists and anti-bureaucratic or "human rights" movements in the East, nationalist movements and "anti-Enlightenment" movements in the South), that are relatively segregated, each variety from the other, may begin to break down in important ways.

We observe significant changes in the rhetoric of each variety in the 1980's, making each less totally "repudiatory" of the others. But the underlying debate about middle-term strategy of social change still concerns very fundamental issues. We will explore the lines along which ideological and organizational reassessment (and realignment?) is occurring. We will also explore the possible bases of social support (and its geography in terms of the world-system) of new structures based on a new consensus.

We shall then want to look at the interrelation of the two scenarios. Will the second scenario (restructuring of antisystemic movements) interfere with, and prevent the fulfillment of, the first scenario (restructuring of geopolitical alliances and the worldwide division of labor)? Or will it simply account for the forms of social unrest and political instability consequent upon the establishment of the new geopolitical framework? Will the economic restructuring resulting from the economic expansion of the first scenario "complete" some of the secular trends of the capitalist world-economy, thereby rendering it extremely difficult to maintain the stability of the system and forcing us into the rapid, violent oscillations of a true bifurcation? In the light of any and all of these projections, what "policy" implications would we draw for the present and immediate future?

IV. Conferences

a. Xth International Colloquium on the World-Economy

The Xth International Colloquium on the World-Economy was held in Brasilia on Aug. 3-5, 1989. The theme was "The World Financial Crisis." The three traditional sponsors—the Fernand Braudel Center, the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, and the Starnberger Institut—were joined by the Centro de Estudos Nacionais e Mundiais of the Univ. de Brasilia, whose Director is Theotônio Dos Santos. The Colloquium received support from the United Nations University.

The five sub-themes were (1) Historical roots of the world financial crisis, (2) The crisis and world geopolitics, (3) The crisis and the power of labor, (4) The crisis and prospects of future development, and (5) The
crisis, debt and the restructuring of the world financial system. There were papers, among others, given by Michel Beaud (France), Howard Wachtel (USA), Theotonio Dos Santos (Brazil), Amiya Bagchi (India), Heinz Sonntag (Venezuela), Oswaldo Sunkel (CEPAL), Otto Kreye and Folkert Fröbel (F.R. Germany), and Orlando Caputo (Mexico/Chile). The paper by Giovanni Arrighi of the Fernand Braudel Center, "The Decline of U.S. Hegemony and the Future of the World Labor Movement," is available upon request.

b. Long Waves Debate

The Center co-sponsored an international conference, held at the VUB, Brussels, from Jan. 12-14, 1989. The other co-sponsors were the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Universiteit van Amsterdam, and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme. The proceedings are being prepared for publication in the Cambridge series, Studies on Modern Capitalism. A follow-up conference is planned for Amsterdam in 1992.

A detailed report of the conference, including a list of all the papers presented, has been published in the Research Bulletin on Long Waves, No. 5, July 1989, which is available upon request from the Center. Beverly Silver gave a paper entitled "Class Struggle and the Kondratieff." It is available upon request.

c. Current Debates in Art History

Each year, the Dept. of Art & Art History of SUNY-Binghamton organizes symposium under this heading. The Third Annual Symposium on the theme, "Culture, Globalization and the World-System: Contemporary Conditions for the Representation of Identity," was held on April 1, 1989, in association with the Fernand Braudel Center. The Center Director gave a paper entitled "The National and the Universal: Can There Be Such a Thing as World Culture?" It is available upon request. The papers of the Symposium will be published.

d. IVth Biennial Conference on the Ottoman Empire and the World-Economy

These conferences are held every two years at Binghamton under the joint aegis of the Center and the Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA) Program of SUNY-Binghamton. The IVth conference is being planned for Oct. 5-6, 1990 on the theme, "Manufacturing in the Ottoman Empire/Turkey: 1500-1980."

e. Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS) Conferences

The XIIIth conference was held at the Univ. of Illinois-Urbana on Apr. 13-15, 1989. The theme was "The Semiperiphery: In-Between or In Transition?" The keynote address, given by Giovanni Arrighi, "The Semiperiphery: A Reconceptualization," is available upon request. The papers will be edited by William G. Martin in the Greenwood series. Beverly Silver gave a paper, "Class and Nation in the Making of the Israeli State." It is available upon request. Former resident Fernand Braudel Center Research Associates who gave papers include: Nicole Bousquet (Univ. Laval), "Understanding the Semiperiphery Today Along Economic Lines"; Robert Schaeffer (Greenpeace), "A World-System Perspective on Ethnic Divisions and Divided States"; Roberto P. Korzeniewicz (SUNY-Albany), "Argentina,
Australia, Canada: Core or Semiperiphery?" and the Conference organizer, William G. Martin (Univ. of Illinois-Urbana), "From NIC to NUC: South Africa's Semiperipheral Regimes."

The XIVth Conference will be held at the Univ. of Washington, in Seattle, from Mar. 29-31, 1990. The theme will be "Cities in the World-System." The co-sponsors are the PEWS Section of the American Sociological Association; the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, the International Studies Program, the Department of Sociology, and the Graduate School, all of the Univ. of Washington. The statement of the organizers follows:

From the Mediterranean ports of the sixteenth century to the financial hubs of the contemporary world, cities have always occupied a privileged position in the historical development of the capitalist world-economy. As sites of accumulation, as centers of domination, and as loci of resistance, cities have captured the attention of historical actors and modern analysts alike.

It has been argued that the recent developments in the organization of work will require a rethinking of our conception of cities in particular and geographical space and its divisions in general. This would also entail a reassessment of the goals and analyses of antisystemic movements.

In light of these changes, the Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Political Economy of the World-System will be devoted to the discussion of the place of cities in the historical development of the capitalist world-economy. We are planning to organize panels around the following subthemes:

(1) The historical relationship between port cities and the world-economy;
(2) Industrial cities (including the changes in labor process, and related social movements that were centered in cities);
(3) Hegemonic cities (Amsterdam, London, New York, Tokyo; specifically and in comparative terms);
(4) City states; from Venice to Hong Kong (again, in specific and comparative terms).

In each one of these, we welcome papers that focus on different historical periods and different zones of the world-economy and in particular those that make an effort to discuss the theoretical implications of the particular topic for the general conceptualization of a global perspective on the city.

Please send an abstract of about 200 words by December 15, 1989 and direct all correspondence to the following address:

Resat Kasaba
Jackson School of International Studies
Thomson Hall DR-05
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
e. Forum of the Workers Movement and the Working Class

This international Forum will have its Third meeting in Moscow in 1991. (The Second Forum was held in Paris in 1986.) The Director of the Center is a member of the International Secretariat. The general program has now been announced, with the institutions that have accepted responsibility for organizing sessions. The program is as follows:

Labor and Society: National and International Dimensions (1850-2000)

Section 1: The Working Class and Technological Progress (Coordination: Fondazione Feltrinelli, Milan)

1.1 Technological Progress, Employment and Work (Hungary?)
1.2 Technological Progress and Living Conditions (CRHMSS, Paris)
1.3 Technological Progress and Composition of the Working-Class (Fernand Braudel Center, SUNY-Binghamton)

Section 2: Labor and Politics: Working Classes, Workers' Parties, Trade Unions and the States (Coordination: Institut d'Histoire Sociale, Amsterdam, & Institut du Mouvement Ouvrier International, Moscow)

2.1 Relations of Democracy and Socialism in the History of the Labor Movement: Context and Representations of Political Action (Fondazione Feltrinelli, Milan)
2.2 Loci of Workers' Power: Geography and Identity (CRHMSS, Paris)
2.3 From "Class" Organizers to "People's" Organizations? (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Bonn)

V. Publications

a. Review

XII, 1, Winter 1989

Christian Suter
Long Waves in the International Financial System: Debt-Default Cycles of Sovereign Borrowers

Jonathan Friedman
Culture, Identity, and World Process

John Foran
The Making of an External Arena: Iran's Place in the World-System, 1500-1722

Robert M. Rosh
Antarctica's Increasing Incorporation into the World-System

DEBATE ON SOUTH ASIA

Sanjay Subramanyam
"World-Economies" and South Asia, 1600-1750: A Skeptical Note

Ravi Arvind Palat
A Rejoinder to Subramanyam
XII, 2, Spring 1989

Constantine V. Vaitsos
Radical Technological Change and the New "Order" in the World-Economy

Giovanni Arrighi, Terence K. Hopkins & Immanuel Wallerstein
1886-1986: Beyond Haymarket?

SEMI PERIPHERY OR CORE?

Daniel Glenday
Rich But Semiperipheral: Canada's Ambiguous Position in the World-Economy

Philip Resnick
From Semiperiphery to Perimeter of the Core: Canada's Place in the Capitalist World-Economy

Malcolm Alexander
Conservatism, Counterrevolution, and Semiperipheral Politics: Australia and Argentina in the Interwar Period

XII, 3, Summer 1989

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE WORLD-SYSTEM

Patrick Karl O'Brien
The Impact of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1793-1815, on the Long-Run Growth of the British Economy

Josep Fontana
Catalonia, 1808-1814: How to Name a War

Maurice Agulhon
The Heritage of the Revolution and Liberty in France

Patrice Higonnet
Jacobinism and the World-System

XII, 4, Fall 1989

Alfred Kleinknecht
Post-1945 Growth as a Schumpeter Boom

Raymond G. Micah
The Food Question in Ghana: Development Strategies and Policies

Geoffrey C. Gunn
Approaches to Tai-Lao Studies: From Orientalism to Marxism

Ulf Jonsson & Ronny Pettersson
Friends or Foes? Peasants, Capitalists, and Markets in West European Agriculture, 1850-1939
The Tables of Contents of Volumes I–XI of Review are available as a brochure upon request. New institutional subscribers are eligible for a reduced rate on the purchase of the complete existing set.

b. Cahier du GEMDEV

The publication of the papers of the U.S.–French colloquia, announced last year, were published in Cahier du GEMDEV as Nos. 12 & 13 (and not as Nos. 8 & 9). Their joint title is "Le Processus de Salarisation dans l'Economie Mondiale."

The Contents of "I: Salarisation, régime d'accumulation et économie mondiale" and of "II: Salarisation, emploi, formation et économie mondiale” remain as printed in Newsletter No. 12. These volumes are still available either from GEMDEV (9 rue Malher, 75004 Paris) for 50F each plus postage, or from the Fernand Braudel Center for $10 each.

VI. Visiting Research Associates

Silviu Brucan, Professor of Social Science, Univ. of Bucharest was with us in September–October 1988. We regret to say that, as a result of a courageous political protest he and others made in December 1988, he is currently under a form of house arrest in Romania and out of contact.

Guy Poppe, BRT Radio, Antwerp, Belgium was with us from September 1988 to February 1989.

VII. Public Speakers

September 28, 1988: Silviu Brucan, Social Sciences, Univ. of Bucharest, "Reform in Socialist Countries: The Underlying Social Conflict."


November 7, 1988: Suraiya Faroqhi, Institute for the History and Culture of the Middle East, Univ. of Munich, "Rural and Urban Manufacturing in the Middle East, 1550–1700," co-sponsored by SWANA, History Dept.


March 6, 1989: Herbert Bix, Visiting Prof. of History at SUNY-Binghamton, Honorary Senior Lecturer at Univ. of Sheffield, "The Meiji Restoration and the Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism in Japan," co-sponsored by Sociology Dept.

VIII. Announcements

International Economic History Association
Tenth World Congress
Leuven, Belgium
20-24 August 1990

To obtain the second brochure and registration forms, please write to: Tenth International Economic History Congress, Postbox 74, B-3000 Leuven 3, Belgium.

Fernand Braudel Center
SUNY-Binghamton
Binghamton, NY 13901